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(b) the number of persons who got employment through Employment Exchanges in those districts during the year?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (a) Ten thousand, three hundred and fifteen and 5,392 persons registered their names in the Employment Exchanges in Malabar and South Kanara districts respectively.

(b) One thousand two hundred and fifty-two in Malabar and 957 in South Kanara got employment through these exchanges.

Tax on elephants

* 2797 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Malabar District Board requested the Government for permission to levy a tax on elephants; and

(b) if so, whether the request was granted?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No.

MR. SPEAKER: Question time is over.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—STATEMENT UNDER RULE 40 *RE* SITUATION IN THE LOWER BHAVANI AREA DUE TO UNJUST LEVIES BY REVENUE AUTHORITIES.

MR. SPEAKER:—I have received two notices, one from Sri K. T. Raju and another from Sri N. K. Palaniswamy, calling attention to matters of urgent public importance under rule 40 of the Assembly Rules. Under rule 40, only one matter has to be allowed, but these two matters are practically the same and I understand that the Hon. Minister for Revenue has agreed to make a joint statement. The notice given by Sri K. T. Raju calls the attention of the Hon. Minister for Revenue to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the serious situation in the Lower Bhavani area of Erode taluk due to unjust levies by Revenue authorities and coercive action taken by them. The notice given by Sri N. K. Palaniswamy calls attention to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, allowing the peasants in the Lower Bhavani area to raise any crops at least in one-fourth of the lands declared as dry lands.

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the total ayacut under the Lower Bhavani Project is 2·07 lakhs acres of which 10,000 acres will be wet. This extent of 10,000 acres has not yet been localised and it has been ordered that pending localisation and zoning of ayacut, which will be finalised after watching the progress of cultivation during the next two years, such of the lands as are percolation-affected will continue to be classed as dry and appropriate water cess and penalty as usual will be charged, if paddy is grown out of necessity. But the Jamabandi